

Stony Brook Bridge  
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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3.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Stony Brook Bridge  
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1792

Builder:

Present condition: Good

Material of construction: Stone

Historical Data:

This triple arched bridge which dates from 1792 was erected to take the place of the one destroyed by General Mercer in the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777; the stone set in the parapet bears the inscription:

STONY BROOK

1792

40 MILES TO PHILADELPHIA  
56 MILES TO NEW YORK

Part of the American strategy in the Battle of Princeton was to destroy Old Stony Brook Bridge (original bridge built 1738) in order to prevent the British from bringing their artillery to the aid of the troops at Princeton; the garrison at Princeton was small. General Mercer failed to destroy the bridge and Colonel Mawhood, who had left Princeton to reenforce

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Cornwallis at Trenton, passed over Stony Brook unaware that Mercer lay upon his flank and rear. Discovering this, Colonel Mawhood turned his troops towards Princeton and a short struggle took place for control of the rising land near the stream.

The Jersey militia retreated leaving their commander General Mercer mortally wounded. Mawhood now found himself in the face of the American army and unable to hold his position retreated towards Princeton. The British made only a feeble resistance and sought safety in flight across Milestone towards New Brunswick. Stony Brook Bridge was destroyed as the rear guard of Cornwallis appeared upon the scene.

Bibliography:

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